



SARS Data Points

Source: "Assessing the Impact and the Cost of SARS Across the Asian Economies"; Oxford Economics, September 2003

Background

- The first of SARS-related travel advisories was issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) on April 2, 2003, asking people to "consider postponing all but essential travel" to Hong Kong and Guangdong.
- The last travel advisory and removal of countries from the list of areas with local transmissions of SARS occurred on July 5, 2003.
 - With the exception of Toronto, which was added to the travel advisory list on April 23rd and removed on April 29th, all countries involved in the WHO travel advisories were located in East Asia.
- SARS cases were first reported on March 17, 2003, and the last case reported on June 23, 2003.
 - Total of 8,459 SARS cases reported globally.
 - The mortality rate among SARS victims was 9.6%.
 - Mainland China was impacted the most, accounting for 63% of reported cases.

Economic Impact

- Total cost to the Asian regional economy of nearly \$20 billion for all of 2003.
- This translates into \$2 million per person infected by SARS.
- Even though the SARS outbreak was relatively contained, the economic fallout was felt throughout Asia and not just in the countries or regions in which SARS cases were reported.
- Governments were largely successful in bringing the situation under control, which acted to reduce the impact.
- Reaction to the SARS news was global and swift and probably carried more weight due to the uncertainty of the disease.
- SARS highlighted just how damaging unexpected international health threats can be.

- Overall, the evidence supports that view that the main driving forces of the SARS economic impact were through tourism and related industries, such as air travel, while non-travel industries were “caught up in the backwash” and did not play a primary role in the significant reduction in visitor arrivals.

Impact on Visitor Arrivals

- The impact on visitor arrivals to countries with reported SARS cases was immediate and dramatic

Percent Change in Visitor Arrivals by Country January 2003 – June 2003

Country	Jan-Feb '03	Mar '03	Apr '03	May '03	Jun '03
China	9.1	-6.5	-30.1	-31.0	-18.0
Hong Kong	28.6	3.9	-64.8	-67.9	-38.2
Taiwan	20.8	-0.2	-50.7	-81.9	-74.0
Singapore	5.1	-14.6	-67.3	-70.7	-47.5
Vietnam	17	0.0	-29.3	-54	-51.5
Average	16.1	-3.5	-48.4	-61.1	-45.8
South Korea	4.8	-10.0	-28.6	-39.4	-26.7
Thailand	3.1	-11.0	-44.8	-50.4	-23.8

Source: OEF